2nd August 1932]

Employment of machinery for Jail industries.

* 17 *Q.*—Mr. F. J. Stanes: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the value of the outturn of jail industries in this province per year;

(*b*) the method adopted in fixing the selling price of jail produce; (Is it, for example, fixed after consultation with the Director of Industries?);

(*c*) what allowances are made in the costing of jail produce for—

(1) daily payment of labour,
(2) overhead charges;

(*d*) what is the policy of Government with regard to the introduction of machinery in jails in view of universal overproduction and the fact that the introduction of machinery in jails leads to definite increase of unemployment; and

(*e*) what percentage of jail labour trained in industrial occupations follows those occupations on discharge in civil life?

A.—(*a*) The value of articles manufactured in all the jails of the Presidency during 1931 was Rs. 10,36,911—vide Statement XII-B (Financial) appended to the Jail Administration Report.

(*b*) & (*c*) The prices of jail-made articles are fixed in accordance with rules 987, 988 and 988-A of the Jail Manual. Only in regard to dispute in the matter of prices between the Jail department and the consuming departments of Government the opinion of an expert officer of the Industries department is obtained.

(*d*) The policy adopted by Government is that laid down by the Indian Jails Committee, viz., "Familiarity with power-driven machinery is instructive and mind awakening and provision of such machinery subserves the true functions of the jail administration while at the same time it increases production and tends to give increased relief to the tax-payer and it is therefore from all these points of view justifiable, but it should be employed in well established and organized industries and care should be taken to avoid any interference with nascent or unorganized industrial enterprises." This policy has been reiterated by the Government of India, the Madras Retrenchment Committee and the Jail Industries Committee.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

Mr. F. J. Stanes:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*e*), will the Government consider the possibility of making enquiries from non-official agencies, as it one of the matters of policy laid down in the Indian Jails Committee Report?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am afraid that the labour involved in the preparation of statistics and making enquiries will be out of all proportion to the benefits that are likely to be derived from the enquiries."

Mr. F. E. JAMES:—" Is the hon. Member aware that in Bengal, in the Punjab and in Bombay this very thing which my hon. Friend, Mr. Stanes, suggested is being carried out most extensively? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" With reference to the answer to clauses (b) and (c), may I know whether disputes have not arisen in the matter of prices between the Police department and the Jail department? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" No dispute has arisen with reference to prices."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether any matter of dispute has arisen with regard to quality? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Yes, with reference to quality only."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the price is not consistent with the quality and thus whether the dispute does not relate indirectly to price? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" It may be. But the dispute is not regarding price."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" What orders have Government passed on the matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Government held a conference in which the Inspector-General of Police and the Inspector-General of Prisons took part, and certain conventions were reached."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask what the nature of the complaint of the Police department is? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" That the quality is not of the required standard."

Shipping and Navigation

Amount of quay dues earned by the Madras Port Trust.

* 18 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether during the year 1931–32 the Landing Agents of the Madras Port were remunerated at the rate of Rs. 2 per ton for cargo landed by boats and Re. 1 per ton for cargo landed directly on the quay;

(b) whether in previous years the rates were the same for both kinds of cargo;